

## **TANF SERVICES FUNDED IN WISCONSIN**

### **EARLY CHILDHOOD EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE**

#### Program Description:

The Early Childhood Excellence Initiative establishes state-of-the-art Early Childhood Excellence Centers in low-income neighborhoods, to provide high quality child care to at-risk children 0-4. Services include parent education, provider training, and grants to child care providers to improve the quality of early childhood education.

Programs provide an environment that is rich in visual, auditory, tactile, and other sensory experiences which are guided by research on the development of the brain and are provided through positive interactions with consistent caregivers.

DWD transfers TANF funding to the federal Child Care and Development Fund, as provided for under federal law, for the development of Early Childhood Excellence Centers.

#### Client Group Served:

The focus of this initiative is on children birth through four years old from low-income families. Grant Applicant Agencies must be a licensed child care entity serving children of families with income at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. These centers strive to ensure that children under the age of five, primarily from low-income families, reach their full potential.

#### Critical Indicators:

Accomplishments for SFY 2000 include awarding grants to 18 Early Childhood Excellence applicants statewide and collaborative efforts to provide high level training to child care providers. A total of 2,300 children are anticipated to be served in 2001.

**TOTAL TANF FUNDING: \$7,500,000**